

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested. This Response is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 7, 9, and 11-24 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 14, and 19-20 were rejected as being anticipated by Lopes, and Claims 5-9 were rejected further in view of Litwin. These rejections are respectfully traversed, especially in view of the foregoing amendments.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. Claim 1 now recites a timekeeping device that counts a local time and that includes a display device, a time synchronization client and a wireless communication device that connects the time synchronization client to an access point capable of accessing a time server through a network including the Internet, the time synchronization client transmitting a query signal for querying a time server through the network to receive a current server time from the time server, the time synchronization client receiving a current server time from the time server, and the time synchronization client adjusting the local time.

This aspect of the invention is described in the specification, for example, on page 6, lines 5-8, "as shown in Figure 2, the timekeeping device 12 includes a clock 22, which keeps or "counts" local time, and a display which displays the kept local time to a user. Like the time information, the time kept by the timekeeping device 12 includes the time of day, date and day of the week or other information relating to the time or the calendar. The term "local time" is intended herein to refer to the time kept locally, i.e., by the clock 22, which typically is the time appropriate for the area in which the timekeeping device is located." As further described, for example, on page 8, lines 5-8, "Preferred examples of such dedicated timekeeping devices are wrist watches and house-hold clocks. Preferably, the aforementioned time synchronization client 24, configuration settings file 26, protocol converter 28, and client hardware device 30 are provided integrally with the timekeeping device 12." As described further at page 8, lines 18-21, "when the timekeeping device 12 decides to update the time, it transmits a wireless request via the access point 18 to the time server 14. The time synchronization client 24 formulates the request and can be programmed to request time information every time a predetermined amount of time has passed."

Thus the timekeeping device of the present invention can be a stand-alone device such as a wristwatch that can periodically, at its own, programmed

initiative, request an updated (current) time from a time server over the Internet. This is in distinct contrast to the prior art. In Lopes, as suggested by the Examiner, the timekeeping device is appliance 36. The telephone 10, not appliance 36, “contacts the time service 32 in step 62 at predetermined intervals to receive a current geographic time.” (col. 6, lines 27-30) This contact is made via the phone line 28. The telephone 10, acting as a time server, then “transmits a synchronization pulse as a clock setting pulse in a data stream in the signals 34 from the RF-transmit circuit 22 and the antenna 24.” (col. 6, lines 33-35) “At the appliance 36, the data stream is received in step 68 through antenna 38 and RF-circuit 40.” (col. 6, lines 38- 39)

Thus, in distinct contrast to the present invention, the telephone, or time server, periodically sends out a time signal. The appliance 36 does not have, or need, a time synchronization client transmitting a query signal for querying a time server, as specifically recited. The appliance 36 is a passive receiver of time signals. In Lopes, the RF-receive circuit 40 in appliance 36 must always be powered on in order to receive the signals from telephone 10, whenever telephone 10 decides to send them. While this is not an issue in Lopes, where the appliances contemplated are a VCR or microwave, which are powered by the power grid of the home, it is an issue in the present invention where the timekeeping device is contemplated as being a wristwatch. In distinct contrast to Lopes, the timekeeping device, e.g. wristwatch, of the present invention initiates the query to receive the current time. This allows the timekeeping device to power down the time synchronization client at least some of the time during which the time synchronization client is not transmitting the query signal, as recited in dependent Claim 8, for example. This helps a stand-alone device such as a wristwatch to maintain its battery power longer. Litwin, like Lopes, is concerned with providing the proper time to appliances (e.g. microwaves, alarm clocks, VCRs, etc.) after a power failure or to prevent power drift. (Litwin, col. 2, lines 36- 38) The devices of Litwin include a “microwave 16, a stereo 18, ...or any other clock devices which plug into the electrical power system.” (Litwin, col. 2, lines 36- 38) Thus, Litwin also is directed to a different problem than the present invention, and like Lopes, fails to disclose or suggest the present invention, as now specifically recited in the claims.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark P. Watson/

Mark P. Watson

Registration No. 31,448

Please address all correspondence to:

Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
2580 Orchard Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95131
Phone: (408) 952-6124
Facsimile: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

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